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**BEFORE THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL  
OF THE LAWYER DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**



**RE: JAMES M. PIERSON, a member of  
The West Virginia State Bar**

**Bar No.: 2907  
Supreme Court No.: 21-0590  
I.D. No.: 18-03-191**

**RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

Comes now the Respondent admits, James M. Pierson, by and through his attorney, Paul S. Saluja, and for his Response to the Statement of Charges does state as follows:

1. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 1.

**COUNT I**

**I.D. No. 18-03-191**

**Complaint of Sherri Reveal, Esquire**

2. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 2.
3. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 3, specifically the footnote thereto which is denied and Respondent demands full and strict proof thereof.
4. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 4.
5. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 5.
6. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 6.
7. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 7.
8. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 8. The Respondent admits a Motion for Contempt was filed and a hearing was conducted on the dates stated, and that additional attorney's fees were awarded, but denies that Mrs. Jones was unaware of the attempts to collect the judgment. Further

Respondent is unaware of the actions of Mrs. Jones and demands full and strict proof thereof. That further in response to paragraph 8 this statement fails to give a full interpretation of the order from the July 19, 2016 hearing. As much as the prior order had stayed judgment, the order from the July 19, 2016 hearing, which was entered by the Court on August 20, 2016, made findings with regard to the contempt of Mr. Jones, required the posting of a Ten Thousand dollar (\$10,000.00) cash or surety bond to ensure performance and cooperation, provide for the issuance of a capias, ordered additional attorney's fees of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars, appointed a special commissioner to convey the Harley Davidson Motorcycle and increased the judgment to Forty-Seven Thousand Seventy-Seven and 19/100 (\$47,077.19) as of July 19, 2016, and provided that it would bear interest at the rate of seven percent (7 %) per annum. As set forth in the detailed calculation attached to the Final Order. All of these items were an effort to collect the debt which efforts were ongoing and notwithstanding Mr. Jones's attempts to prevent collection by refusing to appear at the hearing and continuously hiding his employment.

9. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 9.
10. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 10.
11. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 11.
12. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 12.
13. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 13, but states that Mrs. Jones approved the settlement and was involved in the negotiations.
14. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 14.

15. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 15.
16. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 1, specifically Footnote 4 to that paragraph. In fact, Ms. Shari Collias only noticed her representation of Mrs. Jones on May 2, 2017, at which time she did not reflect that Mrs. Jones was attempting to obtain her file but rather that Mrs. Jones had a stroke and was confused about matters. Upon receipt of that letter, the Respondent directed that it provided to Mrs. Jones by electronic mail because Ms. Collias had not provided any documents signed by Mrs. Jones that Attorney Pierson had been discharged as counsel or any document that reflected that Ms. Collias had been authorized to act on behalf of Mrs. Jones.
17. That the Respondent admits to such an allegation was made and admits the recitation regarding the billing statement appears to be accurate but demands full and strict proof of the matter asserted.
18. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 18 since he believed the Exhibits were attached and therefore demands full and strict proof thereof.
19. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 19 but states that the suspension is irrelevant to this proceeding.
20. That the Respondent is without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the allegation in paragraph 20 and demands full and strict proof thereof.
21. That the Respondent generally admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 21 but in as much as the Respondent did not receive a copy of the green card and has no individual recollection, thereof, Respondent denies the allegation and demand full and strict proof

thereof.

22. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 22 and notes that Governor Justice entered a stay at home order.
23. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 23.
24. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 24.
25. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 25.
26. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 26.
27. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 27 to the extent that the term “eventually” is a mischaracterization as the statement was timely taken within the agreement by Respondent’s counsel and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.
28. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 28, as the day before the sworn statement is the first time that the Office of Disciplinary Counsel raised the issue with the Respondent that the exhibits were not attached.
29. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 29.
30. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 30.
31. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 31.
32. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations as set forth in Paragraph 32 and affirmatively states that by agreement Ms. Jones received the benefit of the \$ 1492.31 by offset against the amount due in the divorce proceeding.
33. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 33.

34. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 34.
35. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 35.
36. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations as set forth in Paragraph 36 to the extent that his staff advised Attorney Pierson that the Nationwide subrogation claim had been paid.
37. That the Respondent admits the allegations set forth in Paragraph 37.
38. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 38.
39. That the Respondent admits the allegation set forth in Paragraph 39.
40. That the Respondent denies the allegations set forth in Paragraph 40 as it is outside the scope of the complaint by Sherry Goodman. To the extent that it is considered as within the scope of the complaint, Attorney Pierson reserves his right to strike as barred by the two-year statute of limitations.
41. That the Respondent admits in part and denies in part the allegations set forth in Paragraph 41, as a written contingent fee agreement with Cynthia Jones existed, however, he cannot locate a copy.
42. That the Respondent denies the allegations set forth in Paragraph 42 to the extent that his staff advised Attorney Pierson that the claims had been paid.
43. That the Respondent denies the allegations set forth in Paragraph 43 to the extent that his staff advised Attorney Pierson that the claims had been paid.
44. That the Respondent denies the the allegations set forth in Paragraph 44 as he did not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.
45. That the Respondent denies the allegations set forth in Paragraph 45.

**WHEREFORE**, Respondent admits prays for the following relief:

- A. That the Court schedule and conduct a hearing upon the request of the proposed Intervenor for an award of grandparent visitation;
- B. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**James M. Pierson**  
**By Counsel**



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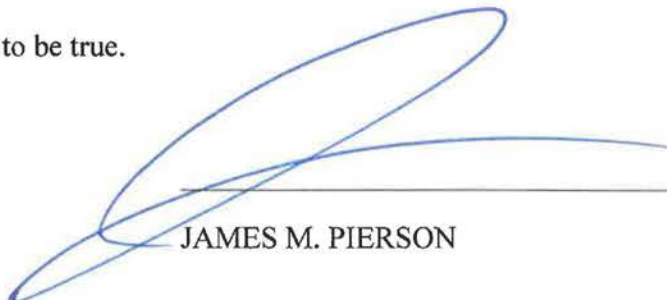
Paul S. Saluja (WVSB #6373)  
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**BEFORE THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL  
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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**RE: JAMES M. PIERSON, a member of  
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**VERIFICATION**

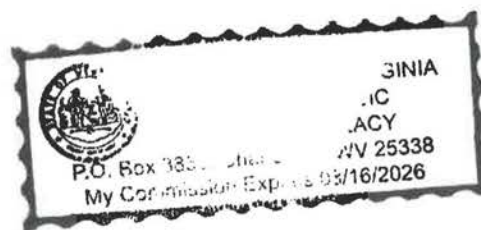
I, JAMES M. PIERSON, Respondent in the foregoing **VERIFIED RESPONSE TO STATEMENT OF CHARGES** after being duly sworn, say that the facts and allegations contained therein are true, except insofar that they are stated to be on information, and that insofar as they are therein stated, they are believed to be true.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES M. PIERSON

Taken, subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

My commission expires: 8-16-2026

  
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Notary Public



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**RE: JAMES M. PIERSON, a member of  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Paul S. Saluja, Counsel for Respondent, do hereby certify that I have served a true and exact copy of the attached "RESPONSE TO STATEMENT OF CHARGES" upon the Petitioner, via United States Postal Service, first class mail, postage pre-paid:

Andrea Hinerman,  
Senior Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel  
Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel  
City Center East  
Suite 1200C  
4700 MacCorkle Avenue, SE  
Charleston, WV 25304

on this 30th day of August, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul S. Saluja